

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-18, 24-27, 29, 38-40, 47-50, and 53 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 9, 11-13, 16-17, 25-27, 29, 38-39, 48-49, and 53 being amended, and Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, 19-23, 28, 30-37, 41-46, and 51-52 being canceled. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 16, 17, 19-26, 28-30, 32-39, 41-53, and 55-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (U.S. Patent No. 5,412,730), and Claims 1-15, 18, 27, 31, 40, 50, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones. These rejections are moot with respect to the canceled claims, and respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention is directed to a scalable secured communication network, such as a user-subscribed cable or satellite network, that facilitates communications to and between authorized users within the network. As shown in Figure 1 of the present application, each of the authorized user (shown as communication interfaces 101) possess a unique seed (small letters a-h) that are unique to the particular communication interface for generating keys to decrypt and/or encrypt messages between the particular communication interface and the master station 107. As also shown in Figure 1, all of the communication interfaces also possess a common seed "B" that each of the communication interfaces can use to generate keys to decrypt messages received from the master station 107 that is intended to be received by everyone within the secured communication network. For instance, if the secured network is a satellite premium TV subscription service, then each of the users may use common seed "B" to generate decryption keys for decrypting regular satellite programming signal.

For instances where the master station 107 need to communicate with individual users, for reasons such as billing-related messages or pay-per-view program delivery, then the master station will encrypt the message using decryption keys generated from a unique seed value corresponding to the unique seed value stored at the communication interface of the intended receiver. Figure 2 of the present application shows the master station 107 having a secured memory 209 that contains a list of all of the unique seeds and their corresponding user identification. The present invention, by using a two-tiered seed value system, provides flexibility in communication with either all or just select view member of the secured network.

Jones does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of using a unique seed and a common seed for generating encryption/decryption keys. Rather, Jones simply discloses the use of a unique seed value for each member of a network. Jones does not make any mention of a need or motivation for using a common seed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are not anticipated by, not obvious in view of, Jones.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 578062000100. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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